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PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(B)(5)

OFFICIAL

To: Examiner Thomas Dougherty **From:** Joseph R. Keating

Fax: 703-872-9306 **Date:** January 26, 2004

Phone: 703-308-1628 **Pages:** 40

Re: 09/973,600 **CC:**

36856.639

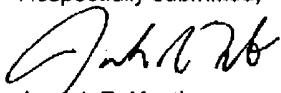
Comments:

Examiner Dougherty,

Please find attached the following documents for U.S. Patent Application No. 09/973,600:

1. Petition under 37 CFR 1.313(b)(5);
2. Credit card form payment in the amount of \$130.00;
3. RCE;
4. Credit card form payment in the amount of \$770.00;
5. Information Disclosure Statement; and
6. PTO form 1449.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph R. Keating
for
KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
(Registration Number 37,368)

REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number	09/973,600
Filing Date	October 9, 2001
First Named Inventor	Jun TABOTA
Group Art Unit	2834
Examiner Name	T. Dougherty
Attorney Docket Number	36856.639

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the Patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s) reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
 - iii. Other
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other

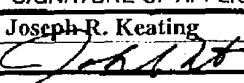
2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103© for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other

1. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other
- b. Check in the amount of \$ enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Joseph R. Keating	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,368
Signature		Date	January 26, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via Hand Delivery to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 313(c), Arlington, VA 22202 on:

Name (Print/Type)	Sonia V. McVean	Date	January 26, 2004
Signature			

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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